



SUSPENSION **Common Council**

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SEAN M. MULLIGAN
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Legislator Thomas Mazur
Fourth Floor
Old County Hall
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Legislator Mazur,

This letter is requesting the opportunity to speak at the next Health & Human Services Committee meeting next Tuesday, June 26 at 9am. I and Jessie Gouck, from Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, would like to discuss the possible support of the Legislature for the creation of a steering committee that would work to create a Food Policy Council ("FPC"). Generally, a FPC is an advisory body to local governments made up of local experts from the food system, including among others, farmers, distributors, retailers, and consumers. Its ultimate goal is to make a more sustainable and local food system through beneficial and innovative policy change. In other cities and counties, examples of the recommendations FPC 's have made to legislative bodies include creating a local food procurement policy for government entities, introducing farmer's markets in underserved areas, and creating composting centers. We can provide more detail at the Health & Human Services Committee meeting.

Additionally, the Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board are supportive of the creation of a FPC. The creation of a FPC is listed in the current draft of recommendations in the forth coming updated Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. The Board has agreed to participate on the FPC Steering Committee if one is convened.

To be clear, this letter is not requesting the creation of an FPC, but the approval of a steering committee tasked with forming an FPC. This steering committee will meet 3-4 times and develop the structure and functionality of the potential FPC. Questions they will answer include: who should serve on the FPC, where it should be housed, and what the mission of the FPC should be. After the steering committee completes its work, it will come back to Legislature with its recommendations. This is anticipated to occur by the end of 2012.

I look forward to the opportunity to speak with the Health & Human Services Committee and will bring copies of the draft resolution. A similar resolution will be brought before the Buffalo Common Council. The potential FPC will also advise this and other legislative bodies, in the case where a food issue can be best addressed by a municipal authority. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Sean Mulligan
Legislative Aide
Councilmember David Rivera's Office
City of Buffalo